H30(NEFA-PRP)

Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Appomattox Court House National Historical Park

From: Archeologist, CHSO/ALSO

Subject: Trip Report, Archeological Testing at Site of Proposed Land Exchange, State Route 701

Purpose: Appomattox Court House National Historical Park has proposed the exchange of a portion of land, averaging 15 feet wide, to the Commonwealth of Virginia in order to realign State Route 701 (Figure 1). Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires that the area be surveyed for properties eligible for the National Register before an exchange may occur. Since the entire park is listed on the National Register, an archeological survey was conducted to determine the project's effect on Register eligible archeological resources.

Background: The proposed land exchange extends for approximately 1600 feet along the south side of State Route 701 (Figure 2). This route also forms a portion of the park's northern boundary. Elevation ranges from 790 feet on its west portion, to 760 feet, with the greatest drop along the final 400 feet (Fig.2). The existing roadway ranges from flush with the existing ground surface, to two feet below it. Ground cover within the proposed exchange area consists of bushy undergrowth and immature trees. A power line within the park boundary parallels much of the proposed project area, and intersects it near the intersection with State Route 24. Several entrances onto the power line have impacted the original topography. These entrances and the cut bank along the roadway allowed excellent examination of the soil stratigraphy.

The first two hundred feet of the proposed land exchange are located within three hundred feet of the site of Robert E. Lee's headquarters during the events at Appomattox. Marked by a interpretive plaque, the site lies on the top of small hill at the elevation of 800 feet. No permanent structures were associated with this event and no surface-evident features exist.

Figure 1: Location of Appomattox Court House National Historical Park (Detail from USGS 7.5 Minute Series (Topographic); Vera, VA and Appomattox Quadrangles).

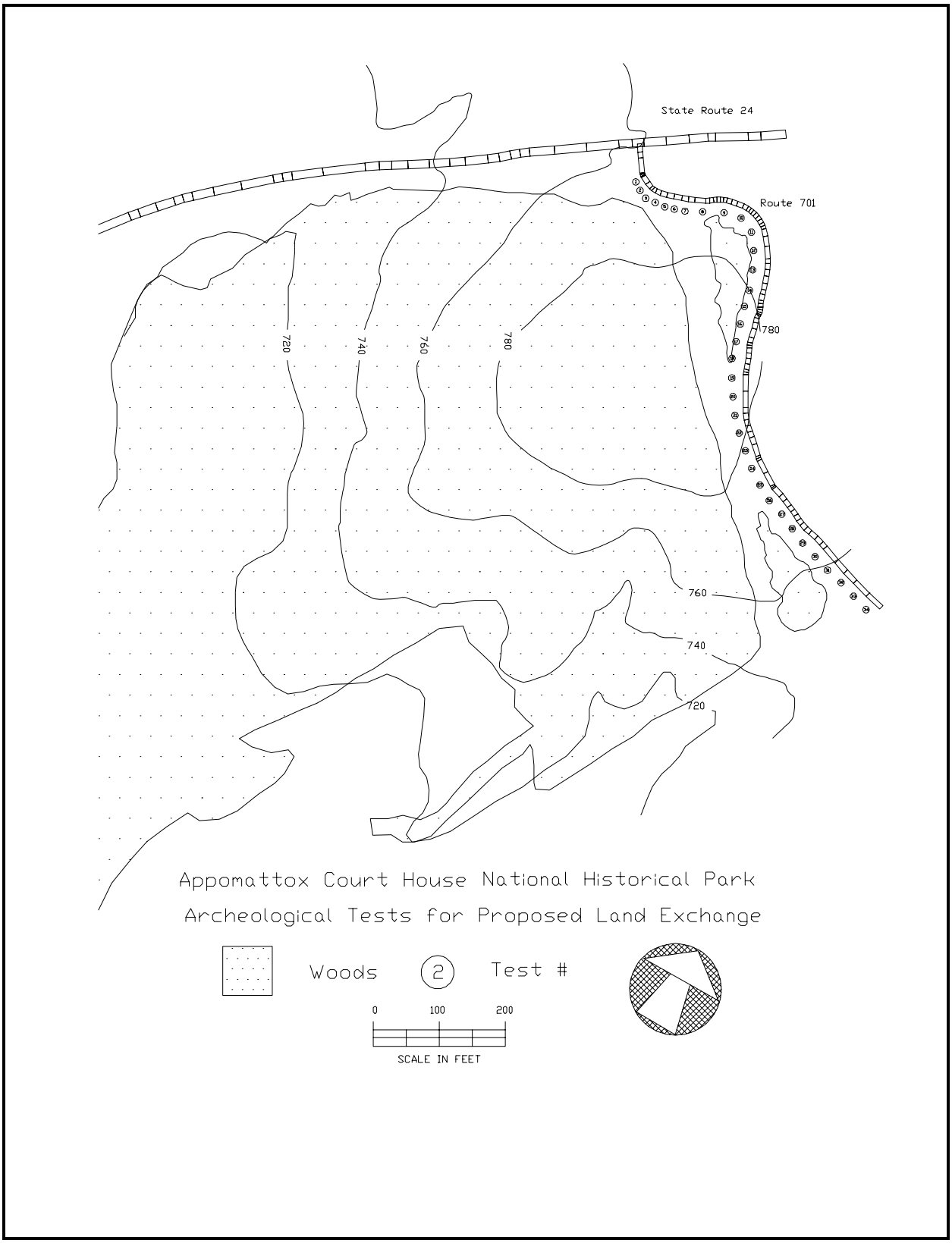

Figure 2: Location of Proposed Land Exchange and Topographic Features.

Results:

Shovel test pits were excavated along the entire length of the proposed land exchange (Figure 3). These tests were spaced at 25 foot intervals for the areas closest to the headquarters site (11+50 to 13+00), and at 50 foot intervals in the areas away from the site (13+00 to 27+00). In addition, all cut banks as well as tilled areas adjacent to the proposed land exchange were visually examined for archeological resources.

A total of 31 shovel tests were excavated. While revealing information on the stratigraphy of this portion of the park, they did not indicate the presence of any intact archeological resources.

Tests near Lee's Headquarters indicated that much of the proposed land exchange had been altered by construction of the existing road and power line. Tests 1 through 6 had similar stratigraphy, with grey-brown humic loam overlying a layer of dense gravel similar to the road paving material. The gravel layer began at 2" beneath the surface and ended between 6" and 8". Beneath this layer of gravel was dense reddish brown clay, which is the general subsoil throughout the area. Test 1 contained a single fragment of burned whiteware ceramic, dating from 1810 to the present. Its position above the gravel layer indicates a relatively recent deposition of this artifact.

Tests along the remainder of the proposed land exchange produced intact stratigraphy (with exceptions for entrance ways to the parallel power line). This consisted of grey-brown humic loam averaging 2.5 inches deep overlying reddish brown sandy clay which in turn extended to 8 inches before changing into reddish brown dense clay. The intermediate layer of reddish brown sandy loam may represent an old plow zone. One fragment of manganese tinted glass was recovered from the top layer of Test 22.

Recommendation:

Archeological tests excavated along the route of the proposed land exchange did not identify any archeological resources. Moreover, close examination of exposed soils along and adjacent to the proposed exchange did not identify any resources. The proposed land exchange will have "no effect" on the archeological significance of Appomattox Court House National Historical Park.

Allen H. Cooper

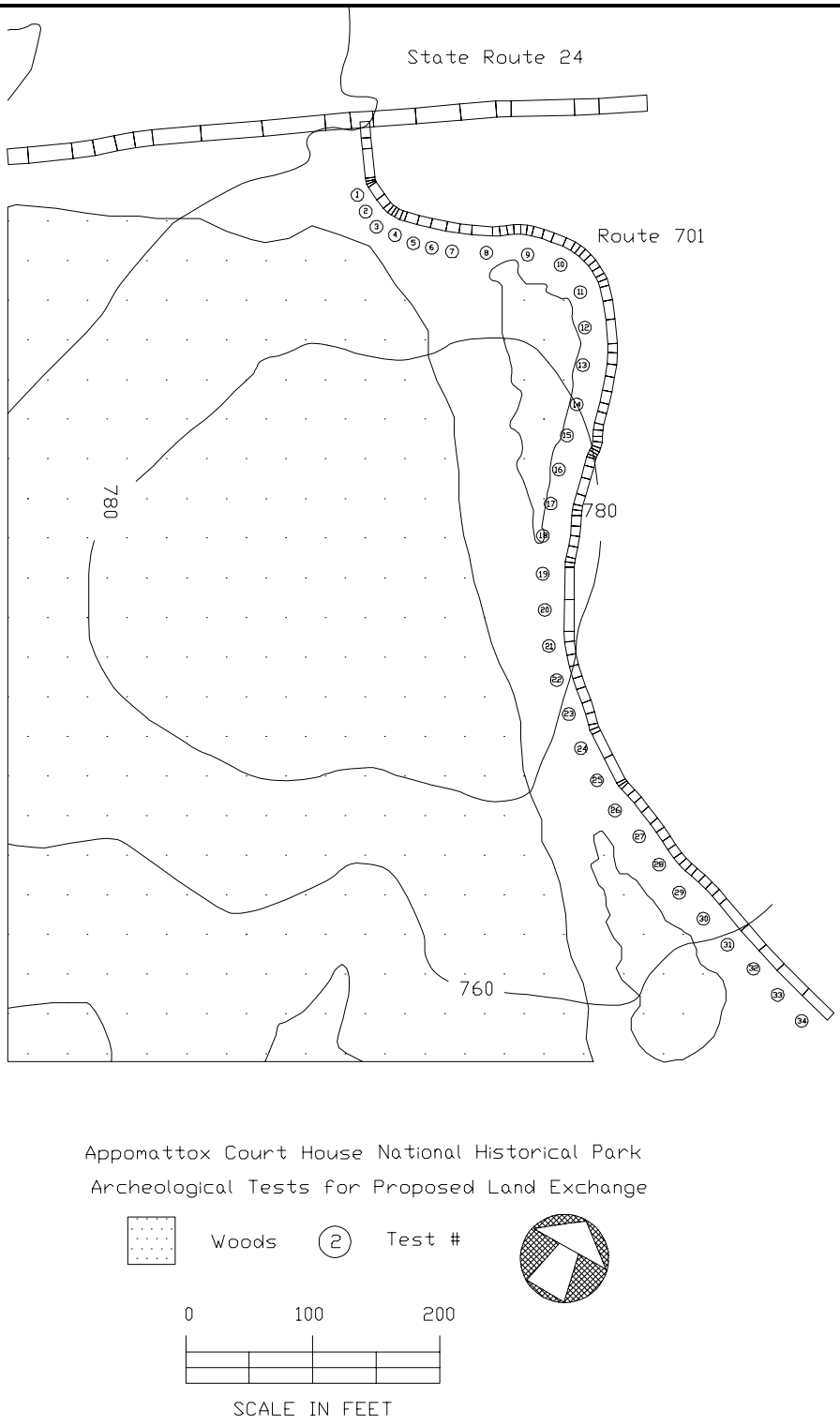

Figure 3: Location of Archeological Tests.

Field Notes

Test 1 at 11+50:
0 - 2" Grey brown humic loam*
2 - 4" Grey brown humic loam with dense grey gravel
4 - 8" Reddish brown dense clay
*(One fragment of whiteware was recovered from this layer; 1813-present)

Test 2 at 11+77:
0 - 6" Reddish brown sandy clay
6 - 1'2" Reddish brown dense clay

Test 3 at 12+00:
0 - 5" Grey brown humic loam with dense gravel*
5 - 8" Reddish brown dense clay
*(One fragment of modern, green soda bottle glass was recovered from this layer; discarded)

Test 4 at 12+20:
0 - 5" Grey brown humic loam with dense gravel*
5 - 8" Reddish brown dense clay
*(One fragment of modern, clear soda bottle glass was recovered from this layer; discarded)

Test 5 at 12+50:
0 - 6" Grey brown clay with dense gravel
6 - 9" Reddish brown dense clay

Test 6 at 12+75:
0 - 6" Grey brown clay with dense gravel
6 - 9" Reddish brown dense clay

Test 7 at 13+00:
0 - 3" Grey brown humic loam
3 - 8" Reddish brown sandy clay
8 - 12" Reddish brown dense clay

Test 8 at 13+50:
0 - 6" Grey brown humic loam
6 - 12" Reddish brown sandy clay
12 - 14" Reddish brown dense clay

Test 9 at 14+00:
0 - 8" Reddish brown dense clay

Test 10 at 14+70:*

0 - 8" Reddish brown sandy clay
8 - 14" Reddish brown dense clay

* (This test excavated 5' outside of proposed land exchange due to inaccessibility)

Test 11 at 15+50:
0 - 3" Grey brown humic loam
3 - 6" Reddish brown sandy clay with dense small stones
6 - 8" Reddish brown dense clay

Test 12 at 16+00:
0 - 3" Grey brown humic loam
3 - 6" Reddish brown sandy clay
6 - 12" Reddish brown dense clay

Test 13 at 16+50:
0 - 3.5" Grey brown humic loam
3.5 - 12" Reddish brown sandy clay
12 - 14" Reddish brown dense clay

Test 14 at 17+00:
0 - 3" Grey brown humic loam
3 - 10" Reddish brown sandy clay
10 - 11" Reddish brown dense clay

Test 15 at 17+50:
0 - 3" Grey brown humic loam
3 - 9" Reddish brown sandy clay
9 - 12" Reddish brown dense clay

Test 16 at 18+00:
0 - 3" Grey brown humic loam
3 - 6" Reddish brown sandy clay
6 - 9" Reddish brown dense clay

Test 17 at 18+50:
This test not excavated due to cut for entrance to power line.

Test 18 at 19+00:
0 - 7" Mottled grey brown loam and reddish brown sandy clay (disturbed)
7 - 10" Reddish brown dense clay

Test 19 at 19+50:
0 - 2.5" Grey brown humic loam
2.5 - 7" Reddish brown sandy clay
7 - 10" Reddish brown dense clay

Test 20 at 20+00:

0 - 2" Grey brown humic loam
2 - 9" Reddish brown sandy clay
9 - 12" Reddish brown dense clay

Test 21 at 20+50:
This test not excavated due to cut for entrance to power line.

Test 22 at 21+00:
0 - 19" Grey brown humic loam*
19 - 24" Reddish brown sandy clay grading into reddish brown dense clay
*(This layer contained a single fragment of manganese glass; 1880-1915)

Test 23 at 21+50:
0 - 2" Grey brown humic loam
2 - 4" Reddish brown sandy clay
4 - 6" Reddish brown dense clay

Test 24 at 22+00:

0 - 2" Grey brown humic loam
2 - 4" Reddish brown sandy clay
4 - 6" Reddish brown dense clay

Test 25 at 22+50:
0 - 2" Grey brown humic loam
2 - 5" Reddish brown sandy clay
5 - 8" Reddish brown dense clay with rotting rock

Test 26 at 23+00:
0 - 2" Grey brown humic loam
2 - 7" Reddish brown sandy clay
7 - 10" Reddish brown dense clay

Test 27 at 23+50:
0 - 2.5" Grey brown humic loam
2.5 - 7" Reddish brown sandy clay
7 - 9" Reddish brown dense clay

Test 28 at 24+00:
0 - 2.5" Grey brown humic loam
2.5 - 7" Reddish brown sandy clay
7 - 9" Reddish brown dense clay

Test 29 at 24+44:
0 - 3" Grey brown humic loam
3 - 6" Reddish brown sandy clay
6 - 11" Reddish brown dense clay

Test 30 at 25+00:
This test not excavated due to cut for entrance to power line.

Test 31 at 25+50:

0 - 3"	Grey brown humic loam
3 - 7	Reddish brown sandy clay
7 - 10"	Reddish brown dense clay

Test 32 at 26+00:

0 - 2"	Grey brown humic loam
2 - 5	Reddish brown sandy clay
5 - 10"	Reddish brown dense clay

Test 33 at 26+50:

0 - 2"	Grey brown humic loam
2 - 6"	Reddish brown sandy clay
6 - 9"	Reddish brown dense clay

Test 34 at 27+00:

0 - 2"	Grey brown humic loam
2 - 7"	Reddish brown sandy clay
7 - 10"	Reddish brown dense clay